

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A Method for separating particulate matter from a gaseous stream, the method comprising

- passing the gaseous stream containing the suspended particulates into a separator apparatus which includes at least two multiple-inlet-multicyclones (16A—16C; 31A—31E), and separating the particulates from the gas by centrifugal force,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

- a separator apparatus is employed wherein at least two (16A—16C; 31A—31E) of the multiple-inlet cyclones are adapted to operate in parallel so as to form a multiple-inlet-multicyclone apparatus, and wherein said multiple-inlet cyclones have straight guide vanes serving to divide the gaseous stream into substreams so as to permit an accelerated gas flow velocity to be arranged individually for any one of said substreams.

2. (Currently Amended) The Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the gaseous stream to be treated is flue gas discharged from a primary separator apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) The Method according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said primary separator apparatus comprises an axial cyclone or multiple-inlet cyclone or a cascaded cyclone configuration of the axial cyclone and multiple-inlet cyclone.

4. (Currently Amended) The Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the gaseous stream to be treated is passed into said multiple-inlet-multicyclone apparatus from a secondary separator apparatus.

5. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said secondary separator apparatus comprises an axial cyclone or multiple-inlet cyclone, a cascaded cyclone configuration of an axial cyclone and multiple-inlet cyclone or a combination of a multiple-inlet cyclone with a cascaded cyclone configuration.
6. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to any one of claims 1-5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the gaseous stream to be treated is product gas which is discharged from a fluidized catalytic process and contains suspended catalyst.
7. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the gaseous stream to be treated is flue gas which is discharged from the combustion of coke performed in catalyst regeneration and hence contains suspended catalyst.
8. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said fluidized catalytic process comprises catalytic cracking of hydrocarbon compounds performed in a fluidized catalytic cracking unit.
9. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the stream to be treated is flue gas from a fluidized-bed combustion process of solid fuels performed in heat or power generation.
10. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the dust concentration of the gaseous stream being treated is reduced to a value not greater than 50 mg/Nm³.
11. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the separation of particulate matter is carried out using 3 to 25 parallel-connected cyclones ~~(16A-16C; 31A-31E)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The Method according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~
~~therein are used wherein~~ 3 to 25 parallel-connected cyclones (16A—16C; 31A—31E) in an
arrangement, wherein the diplegs (20A—20C; 38A—38E) of the parallel-connected cyclones are
adapted into the interior of a common discharge conduit (27; 34).

13. (Currently Amended) An Assembly for separation of particulate matter from a gaseous
stream in process equipment, the assembly comprising

- at least two multiple-inlet cyclones (16A—16C; 31A—31E),

characterized by

- having at least two of the multiple-inlet cyclones connected in a parallel
configuration, wherein said multiple-inlet cyclones have straight guide vanes
serving to divide the gaseous stream into substreams so as to permit an accelerated
gas flow velocity to be arranged individually for any one of said substreams.

14. (Currently Amended) The Assembly according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said parallel-connected cyclones (16A—16C) have a common gas inlet channel (15) formed
between two concentric cylindrical or partially conical envelope surfaces (12, 14; 14, 21), whereby
said cyclones (16A—16C) are adapted to operate in the interior space of said gas inlet channel
(15).

15. (Currently Amended) The Assembly according to claim 13 ~~14~~, ~~characterized in that~~
that wherein said gas inlet channel (15) has an essentially circular cross section in a plane
perpendicular to the center axis of the cyclone.

16. (Currently Amended) The Assembly according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the center conduits (37A-37E) of said multiple-inlet cyclones (31A- 31E) are adapted

to pass through a common gas inlet channel (43).

17. (Currently Amended) The Assembly according to claim 13, characterized in that each one of said multiple-inlet cyclones (16A- 16C; 31A- 31E) is provided with a separation chamber which is equipped with guide vanes (17A-17C; 42A - 42E) and whose center axis is aligned essentially upright.

18. (Currently Amended) The Assembly according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the guide vanes (~~17A-17C; 42A-42E~~) of said multiple-inlet cyclones are spaced in an annular fashion about the inner perimeter of the cyclone chamber, reaching partially or entirely into the riser channel so as to form a louver comprising a plurality of parallel inlet channels for the entering gas flow.

19. (Currently Amended) The Assembly according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the number of said parallel-connected multiple-inlet cyclones (~~16A-16C; 31A-31E~~) is 3 to 300.

20. (Currently Amended) The Assembly according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said assembly is connected to a fluidized catalytic process apparatus or process equipment used in fluidized-bed combustion.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The Assembly according to claim ~~21~~13, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the guide vanes are straight.